

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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NEA/IRN ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS IR
SUBJ: PROPOSED STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSFER OF
ARMS.

REF: GREENE-MARTIN MAY 1 LETTER WITH ATTACHMENTS

1. APPRECIATE YOUR INVOLVING US IN THE ONGOING CONSIDERATION
OF THE TWO PROPOSED STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF A MILITARY
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (INCLUDING THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND
TRAINING INVOLVED) ON A COUNTRY'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.
FROM THE OUTLINES ATTACHED TO REF LETTER IT IS CLEAR BOTH
HAVE BEEN THOUGHTFULLY DEVELOPED.

2. THAT BEING SAID WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT EITHER
STUDY, EVEN WITH CONSIDERABLE REFINING AND TAILORING OF
ITS OUTLINE AND AIMS (A PROCESS IN WHICH IF EITHER IS PURSUED
WE BELIEVE THE EMBASSY COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE), PRODUCING
SUBSTANTIAL AND SIGNIFICANT RESULTS FOR THE OPERATIONAL
COMMUNITY , THAT IS, THE INTER-AGENCY PROCESS IN
WASHINGTON, AND THE MISSIONAT THIS END OF THE LINE.
THE STUDIES WOULD BE OF INTEREST, AND CERTAINLY THE
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MOST CURRENT BODY OF MATERIAL ON THE SUBJECT, BUT IT
IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE THEM, AS PRESENTLY PROPOSED,
PROVIDING GREAT NOURISHMENT FOR OUR DAY-TO-DAY
ACTIVITIES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME WE DO SEE SOME POTENTIAL UTILITY
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW. WE ARE

LESS SANGUINE ABOUT THE RAND PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT IS MACRO IN CONCEPT, WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING A METHODOLOGY FOR UNIVERSAL AND TIMELESS APPLICATION. IN OUR VIEW THE SUBJECT IS ONE THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED INDIVIDUALLY WITH RESPECT TO EACH COUNTRY SINCE EACH COUNTRY, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUBJECT, IS QUITE DIFFERENT AND DISTINGUISHABLE FROM ANOTHER--INDEED, ESSENTIALLY UNIQUE. THUS, A METHODOLOGY MIGHT HELP IN PREPARING TO STUDY A COUNTRY, BUT WOULD NOT HELP IN ACTUALLY DOING THE STUDY; IN THAT SITUATION IT WOULD TEND TO DISTORT, AND EVEN MISLEAD.

4. THE NEUMAN OUTLINE, WITH ITS MICRO FOCUS, WOULD THEREFORE SEEM TO BE BETTER. WE AGREE WITH YOUR THAT IT NEEDS CONSIDERABLE PARING, REFINING, AND RECASTING. ADDITIONALLY, IT SHOULD (AS YOU NOTE) COVER IRAN ONLY. SOLE FOCUS ON IRAN SHOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED IF THE RAND MACRO APPROACH IS PURSUED.

5. BECAUSE OF THE OPEN DOORS QUESTION YOU RAISE: IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE BEST WAY FOR COLUMBIA (NEUMAN) TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO LINE UP WITH AN IRANIAN PARTNER. WITH THE PRECEDENT OF LAST OCTOBER (SRI AND IIPES SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON) WE BELIEVE AMIRIE'S INSTITUTE WOULD BE THE IDEAL CANDIDATE. SUCH A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR OBTAINING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRED IRANIAN COOPERATION, TAKE CARE OF THE QUESTION ABOUT IRANIAN INTEREST AB INITIO, AND ENSURE OPEN DOORS. (WE ASSUME THAT IIPES WOULD NOT AGREE TO COLLABORATE WITH COLUMBIA WITHOUT KNOWING THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS VIEWED FAVORABLY AT THE TOP LEVEL HERE.)

6. THIS SEEMS TO US THE MOST USEFUL WAY TO PROCEED. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE EARLIER NEUMAN EFFORT PRODUCED VERY LITTLE BUT FRUSTRATION ON HER PART, AND SUBSTANTIAL LACK OF COMPREHENSION ON THE IRANIAN SIDE. SHE COULD NOT GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS AFTER, AND THIS LED TO AN ITINERARY HERE IN COUNTRY GREATLY UNRELATED TO HER QUEST. AN ADDITIONAL NEGATIVE WAS (AND REMAINS) THAT THE GOI DOES NOT COLLECT DATA/ FIGURES/STATISTICS OF THE SORT NEUMAN SOUGHT, IN A WAY THEY WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE FOR HER PURPOSES. IN CONSIDERABLE DEGREE THEY DO NOT SEEM TO COLLECT SUCH FIGURES AT ALL.

7. WITH IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT OF AN ACADEMIC SORT(SUCH AS IIPES) WITH COLUMBIA (NEUMAN) THE COMMUNICATION PROBLEM SHOULD BE ALLEVIATED MARKEDLY, EVEN--ONE CAN

HOPE--OVERCOME ENTIRELY. ALSO, THE IRANIAN SIDE OF THE EQUATION WOULD BE ABLE TO FACILITATE OBTAINING DATA/ STATISTICS THAT ARE AVAILABLE HERE, AND PERHAPS TO CONVINCE RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF THE GOI TO COMPILE FIGURES OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE STUDY FOR FUTURE REFERENCE AND USE. THIS WE SUSPECT COLUMBIA (NEUMAN) COULD NEVER SUCCEED IN DOING.

8. EVEN IF PURSUED ALONG LINES AS NOTED ABOVE, INCLUDING IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT STARTLING RESULTS FROM AN INITIAL STUDY. PERHAPS THE MOST USEFUL THING WOULD BE TO GET THE IRANIANS THINKING ABOUT THE QUESTION, COLLECTING RELEVANT DATA, AND DEVELOPING PEOPLE AND STATISTICS THAT THE MISSION COULD WORK WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DRAW UPON ON A CONTINUING BASIS TO ASSIST IN OUR ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE PROPOSED ARMS SALES TO IRAN. SULLIVAN

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